

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A digital camera comprising:

an image sensor for capturing an image;

a lens arrangement arranged to focus light onto the image sensor and being movable to vary the focus ~~providing a variable focus~~;

a button operable by a user;

a mechanical linkage coupling the button to the lens arrangement and adapted to move the lens arrangement on operation of the button;

a memory for storing images captured by the image sensor; and

a controller arranged to control the operation of the digital camera, the controller being arranged to perform an image capture operation in response to operation of the button, the image capture operation comprising:

causing a series of images, each including ~~consisting of~~ the entire image area and having differing focus provided by the lens arrangement, to be captured by the image sensor as the lens arrangement is moved on operation of the button and to be stored in the memory; and

analyzing the images stored in the memory to determine the quality of the focus of the images and, on the basis of the analysis, ~~selecting one of the series of images~~

~~determined to have the best focus as deriving an in-focus image from the series of images; and~~
~~in respect of the in-focus image performing either one or both of:~~
~~(a) displaying the in-focus image on a display of the digital camera; and~~
~~(b) retaining the in-focus image in the memory in a manner allowing the user subsequently to retrieve the in-focus image from the memory.~~

Claims 2 and 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A digital camera according to claim 1 [[3]], wherein the linkage mechanism is arranged to moved the lens arrangement from its rest position by depression of the button and further comprises:

a resilient element arranged to bias the lens arrangement back towards its rest position after depression of the button; and

a damper arranged to control the speed of movement of the lens arrangement back towards its rest position,

the controller being arranged to perform said image capture operation with the series of images being captured as the lens arrangement is moved back towards its rest position after depression of the button.

Claims 5-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A digital camera according to claim 23 [[6]], wherein the quality of the focus of the images is determined on the basis of an area of analysis which is a partial area of the entire image area.

Claims 9-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said ~~step of said image capture operation which said controller is arranged to perform~~ of analyzing the images stored in the memory to determine the quality of the focus of the images and, on the basis of the analysis, ~~selecting one of the series of images determined to have the best focus~~ deriving as an in-focus image from the series of images is performed after all the series of images have been stored in the memory.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said ~~step of said image capture operation which said controller is arranged to perform~~ of analyzing the images stored in the memory to determine the quality of the focus of the images and, on the basis of the analysis, ~~selecting one of the series of images determined to have the best focus~~ deriving as an in-focus image from the series of images is performed as successive images of the series are captured by

initially storing the first image of the series as said in-focus image and

in respect of each successive image in the series analysing the image to determine the quality of the focus of the image in comparison with the image stored as said in-focus image and on the basis of the analysis updating the image stored as said in-focus image.

Claims 17-22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (New): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said step of deriving an in-focus image comprises selecting one of the images of the series determined to have the best focus.

Claim 24 (New): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said step of deriving an in-focus image comprises synthesizing an image from the series of images.

Claim 25 (New): A digital camera according to claim 24, wherein the quality of the focus of the images is determined in each of a plurality of parts of the image and said step of deriving an in-focus image comprises synthesizing an image from the series of images by, in respect of each of said plurality of parts of the image area, selecting the part of the image area determined to have the best focus from one of the series of images.

Claim 26 (New): A digital camera according to claim 23, wherein the quality of the focus of the images is determined in each of a plurality of parts of the image on the basis of an area of analysis which is a partial area of the part of the image area.

Claim 27 (New): A digital camera according to claim 23, wherein the quality of the focus of the images is determined in each of a plurality of parts of the image on the basis of an area of analysis which is the entire area of each part of the image area.

Claim 28 (New): A digital camera according to claim 24, wherein the quality of the focus of the images is determined in each of a plurality of parts of the image on the basis of an area of analysis including the entire area of that part of the image area and an adjacent area.

Claim 29 (New): A digital camera according to claim 28, wherein said parts of the image area each comprise a single pixel.

Claim 30 (New): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the digital camera has a display and the in-focus image is displayed on the display.

Claim 31 (New): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the in-focus image is retained in said memory in a manner allowing the user subsequently to retrieve the in-focus image from memory.